

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 02923 292158Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----002737 292203Z /62
O 292022Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4138

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY READ FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AODE, BB
SUBJECT: MODE - EVALUATION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS BY CHIEF OF
MISSION

REF: STATE 277164

1. WAVES OF VIP VISITORS PREVENTED ME FROM ATTENDING
PERSONALLY UNTIL NOW TO YOUR IMPORTANT MESSAGE ON PERSONNEL
LEVELS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I SUPPORT UNRESERVEDLY THE
ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTION TO KEEP OVERSEAS MISSIONS LEAN AND
MUSCULAR.

2. INSPECTORS CONCLUDED IN BRIDGETOWN LAST MONTH THAT THIS
POST IS VERY SPARE NOW AND THAT IN VIEW OF OUR STEADILY INCREAS-
ING RESPONSIBILITIES SOME BUILDUP IN PERSONNEL MAY EVENTUALLY
BE NECESSARY. IN CONCUR IN THAT JUDGMENT.

3. AS YOU KNOW, WE COVER TEN POLITICAL ENTITIES COMPRISING
LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF ISLANDS. AN ADDITIONAL
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POLITICAL OFFICER MIGHT BE NEEDED TO RIDE CIRCUIT, PARTICULARLY
AS MORE MINI-STATES SUCH AS DOMINICA OR ST. LUCIA
BECOME FULLY INDEPENDENT.

4. THERE IS ALSO QUESTION OF WHETHER WE WISH TO RAISE
STATUS OF EXISTING REGIONAL AID AFFAIRS OFFICE IN
BRIDGETOWN TO THAT OF SMALL REGIONAL AID MISSION.

IT IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE APPARENT TO ME THAT IDEAS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN SUPPORT OF CURRENT CARIBBEAN INITIATIVE (CARIBBEAN GROUP FOR COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT) ARE BEST GENERATED HERE. IF WE ARE TO COME UP WITH CREATIVE IDEAS, HOWEVER, WE WILL NEED A DIRECTOR WITH SUITABLE POLICY-RELATED BACKGROUND AND SOME VERY MODEST EXPANSION OF STAFF TO PERMIT BETTER ANALYSIS BASED ON MORE FREQUENT TRAVEL. MOREOVER, EVEN IF OUR FUNDS CONTINUE FOR MOST PART TO BE CHanneLED THROUGH REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (CDB), MORE BILATERAL CONTACTS ARE NECESSARY BETWEEN OUR USAID PERSONNEL AND TECHNICIANS OF INDIVIDUAL ISLANDS. AT PRESENT, BRIDGETOWN-BASED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE FOR CARIBBEAN (RDO/C COVERS TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, CAYMAN ISLANDS AND BELIZE, AS WELL AS ISLANDS WITHIN EMBASSY'S JURISDICTION. FIVER AUTHORIZED AMERICAN POSITIONS ARE BARELY ENOUGH NOW, EVEN BEFORE WE SHIFT PROGRAM DIRECTION ENTIRELY TO POST AS I WOULD LIKE TO DO.

5. PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR FOR EASTERN CARIBBEAN, WHOSE HEADQUARTERS IS BRIDGETOWN, STATES THAT TOTAL COMPLEMENT OF THREE AMERICANS, INCLUDING SUB-OFFICES ON ANTIGUA AND ST. VINCENT, REPRESENTS LOWEST STAFF-TO-VOLUNTEER RATIO IN WORLD. PEACE CORPS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPRISES ABOUT 200 VOLUNTEERS CURRENTLY.

6. TO AMERICANS ON STAFF OF AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FREE LABOR DEVELOPMENT (AIFLD) FUNDED BY AID SEEM JUSTIFIED IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN BECAUSE THEY MUST TRAVEL TO 17 POLITICAL ENTITIES.

7. ASIDE FROM ABOUT 250 MILITARY AND DOD CONTRACT PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THREE SMALL NAVY AND AIR FORCE SPECIAL FACILITIES, THERE ARE NOT OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OPERATING WITHIN OUR DISTRICT.

8. ABOVE DISCUSSED WITH AGENCY HEADS IN BRIDGETOWN. I AM SENDING THIS MESSAGE STADIS/EXDIS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH REFTEL BUT CERTAINLY HAVE NO OBJECTION TO YOUR SHARING CONTENTS WITH AGENCIES CONCERNED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRIDGE02923
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770442-0583
Format: TEL
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771110/aaaaaiaz.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e14dae0d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS, EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS, EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 277164
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 385074
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MODE - EVALUATION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS BY CHIEF OF MISSION
TAGS: AODE, BB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e14dae0d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009